VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

MARCH 2009

FOUR DOLLARS

Annual Photography Contest Showcase

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A Salute to Our Contestants

When I was a teenager, I had a cousin who traveled the world shooting nature photographs. Capturing the essence of a particular place by re-creating famous scenes or landmarks decades later was her specialty. She told me she often had to sit for hours on end, sometimes days even, waiting for the twilight to cast just the right shadow, or the clouds to cluster in similar position, or the leaves to come to full rest. Throughout the icy mornings of winter and the long, humid swells of late summer afternoons she sat and sat, waiting with tripod firmly planted and camera ready to roll.

Since that time, I have met many talented photographers of varied training and interests. The serious ones had their own dark rooms and took great joy in developing their prints, manipulating the outcomes through a slight nuance of timing or a tweak of chemicals. Theirs was a juvenile excitement, each time an image developed and a surprise revealed itself.

I admired their passion and their persistence. I envied the childlike quality that they brought to their art. And although I did not become a professional photographer, I have tinkered with a camera over the years and I have tasted the allure of the art form, now made more accessible to all of us by developments in digital technology.

Nature and wildlife photographers—to my way of thinking—have it all. They combine the fine skills of their craft with the limitless possibilities of the outdoors canvas, with nothing but their imagination (and perhaps, budget) to constrain them. I am still envious of their talents and their incredible eye for beauty.

Working on this particular issue of the magazine has therefore been a genuine treat for me. It reminds me that there is no shortage of energy or insight among the pool of artists who continue to tote their favorite photo equipment into the woods and meadows or along the streams and coastlines of this fine state. Their gifts span many generations: from early school age to those in their retirement years. And their enthusiasm can be felt in the notes that accompany their entries.

So it is with great pleasure that we present this issue to you, to ponder and to marvel, to learn from and to rejoice in. May you enjoy the adventure as you travel with us through the eyes of our winners. And congratulations to all who entered, whether your submission is featured within or not. From the entire magazine staff, thank you and thanks to our sponsors who make the contest possible!

Sally Mills
Editor

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To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; To provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia; To promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing; To provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.

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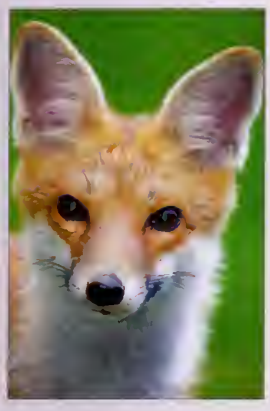
MARCH CONTENTS



Front Cover: Grand Prize
This year's winner of the coveted Grand Prize Cover goes to Joe Mikus of Winchester, for his beautiful portrait of a young red fox. While sitting in a blind in Frederick County, Joe spotted the curious animal as it came close to investigate his blind and the sounds of his camera firing. This is the first year that Joe entered the contest, and wow, what a great cover! Congratulations Joe!!!

Nikon D300 digital camera, Nikkor 400mm f2.8 lens, 1.4x teleconverter, ISO 800, 1/320th, f.5.6, flash.
Back Cover: Grand Prize, see page 34.

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

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4 SCENIC SEASONS

8 COLD AND CLAMMY CRITTERS

12 THE SPORTING LIFE

15 MARVELOUS MAMMALS

18 A BUG'S LIFE

21 BIRDS OF A FEATHER

25 FANTASTIC FLOWERS

28 KIDS AND CAMERAS

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Virginia Wildlife

Annual Photography Contest Showcase

by Lynda Richardson

"Ohhhhh, dang. This is getting harder every year!" Staring at the computer monitor, editor Sally Mills, art director Emily Pels, former editor Lee Walker, and I began to go through the 247 images submitted for *A Bug's Life*. "Good grief...there are so many good ones," someone murmured. As we carefully finished reviewing all of the images on the screen, we took a communal breath and continued the tough editing process. Our first eliminations still left us with 55 photographs to fight over; oops, I mean discuss. And we still had seven more categories to go through.

This year, the number of photographers entering the contest and the number of entries was down slightly, but the quality was definitely up. We had nearly 200 photographers submit over 1400 images, as opposed to last year's 1500 entries from over 300 participants. Categories that had not seen a lot of submissions, such as *The Sporting Life*, became very competitive this year with over 100 top quality entries. *Birds of a Feather* (over 300), *A Bug's Life* (247) and *Fantastic Flowers* (213) still remained the largest categories.

It took us two full days to judge the competition, shaving time off of last year's competition, but that was because office manager Kim Crockett had diligently organized and recorded all submissions throughout the year. This made things very turn-key when it came time for judging.

Whittling down the submissions, we discussed various aspects of what makes a great photograph. Some pictures were beautifully executed in gorgeous light, using color well, appropriate shutter speeds and depth-of-field, and great composition to create artistically stunning results. Other photographs had the "wow" factor of subject matter or technical expertise on their side: a hard to photograph behavior was captured; a rare or difficult subject was recorded; an unusual angle or difficult technique was executed. But then, how do you judge artistic over "Wow?" That was when we would get into our annual "discussions" over the final selection. There was a lot of give and take and, as always, we did have to call in our tie-breaker Carol Kushlak, our production manager.

A few problems with entries still remained. Several photographers submitted poor quality, out-of-focus, overly saturated, or unnaturally colored prints without a digital file of the photograph that we could check for image quality. These images were automatically disqualified. Lastly, it appears that only a couple of people read my November 2007 "Photo Tips" column on ITPC information. Of all the digital photographs submitted, only a handful of photographers imbedded their name and contact information into their digital files. Not including ITPC information can be a real pain to editors! Hint, hint! (This will be another upcoming "Photo Tips" column, so stay tuned.)

As you will note in the caption information, the winners displayed a great deal of effort and patience in their attempts to capture a winning photograph. For example, the *Kid's Grand Prize Back Cover* winner, 13-year-old Marlin Shank of Dayton, used remote camera gear and triggers to capture his awesome image of a flying barn owl. First-place winner of *A Sporting Life*, Roddy Addington of Pound, traveled underground with his camera for an incredible 35-second exposure of a large room in Wildcat Saltpeter Cave in Big Stone Gap. Jan Shook of Oak Hill dodged falling apples while holding a flashlight in one hand and a camera in the other to capture her second place of an opossum in an apple tree. I could go on and on.

But of all the winners, the young red fox gracing our front cover and winning the *Grand Prize* for first-time entrant Joe Mikus of Winchester says it all. Wildlife and nature photography is all about planning, patience, persistence, and luck. After hours of waiting in a blind for a totally different subject, Joe was surprised by the appearance of this beautiful fox. As the curious animal came closer, Joe captured this delightful portrait, which speaks volumes about our relationship with the spirit of the natural world. To quote Martin Buber, "An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language." So true.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the loyal sponsors of the annual photography contest: the Eastman-Kodak Company, Richmond Camera, and of course, *Virginia Wildlife*.

So, to all of you photographers out there...NOW is the best time to start planning and shooting for next year's competition! Soak in this fabulous issue and be inspired to connect with the Earth's beauty through the adventure and challenges of photography. Enjoy!

Please note changes on "How to Enter" the 2009 Annual Photography Contest.
http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/events/photo-contest.pdf

Scenic Seasons

FIRST PLACE

G. Michael Brown

Virginia Beach

Traveling the back roads of Highland and Bath counties paid off for G. Michael Brown with a first-place win for his "Big Sky" fall landscape. Makes you want to travel on down that gravel road to see what awaits you. Great shot!

Nikon D300 digital camera, Nikkor 17-35mm f.2.8 lens, ISO 320, 1/200th, f.6.3.

Charles Dickens

"How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains!"

John Muir

SECOND PLACE

Rebecca Gregory

Clear Brook

Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park is prime for great photographs. Becky captured this dramatic sunset one fall.

Canon EOS 40D digital camera, Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 lens, ISO 1600, 1/250th, f.29.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Megan Freeborn

Wirtz

Fingers of ice reaching out in the cold, Rocky Mount.

Nikon D50 digital camera, Nikkor 18-135mm f.3.5-5.6 lens, ISO 200, 1/250th, f.8.0.

THIRD PLACE

Lori Atwater

Blacksburg

Cascades upper falls in Giles County.

Canon PowerShot A700 digital camera, ISO no recorded, 1/10th, f.8.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Joyce Sims

Radford

A cold January at Mabry Mill.

Olympus SP-550UZ digital camera, ISO 50, 1/250th, f.3.7.

Cold and Clammy Critters

FIRST PLACE

David G. Boyd

Falmouth

We all gasped when we saw this stunning photograph of a brook trout rising. The colorful fish and its harsh curvy shadow against a clean, sandy river bottom made this a first-place win for David Boyd. David got the shot in the Shenandoah National Park in a river near Natural Bridge. Wow!

Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III digital camera, Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 lens, ISO 1600, 1/500th, f.9.0.

"Photography is a small voice, at best, but sometimes one photograph, or a group of them, can lure our sense of awareness."

W. Eugene Smith

SECOND PLACE

Paul Block
Williamsburg

Green tree frogs huddle together for a snooze on a cattail along a small pond in Yorktown.

Nikon D70 digital camera, Nikkor 105mm micro lens, ISO not recorded, 1/500th, f.8.0.

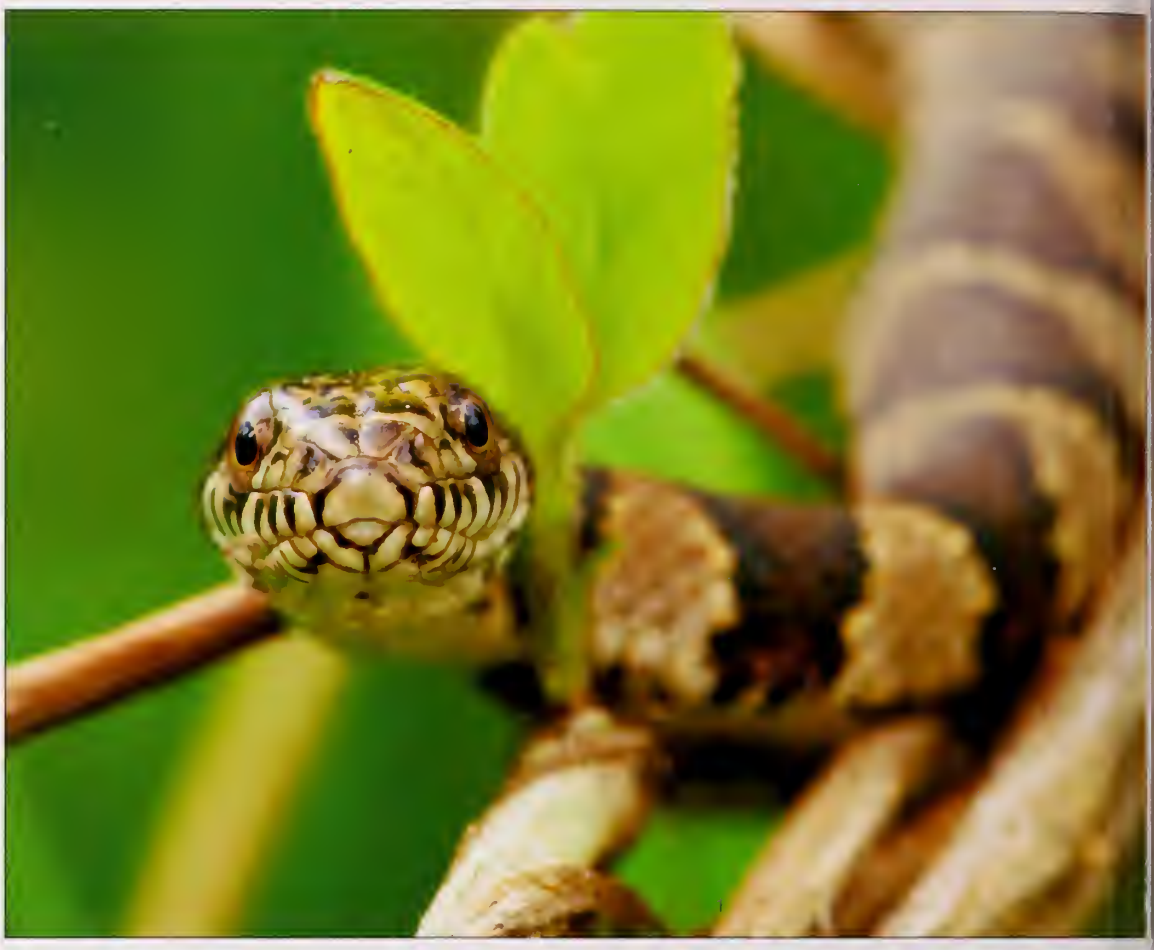
THIRD PLACE

Rachel Echols

Chester

While photographing flowers at "The Wetlands" in the James River Park in Richmond, Rachel spotted this small northern water snake that remained motionless while she photographed it.

NIKON D80 digital camera, Nikkor 80-400mm f4.5-5.6 lens with an additional Canon 500D close-up filter, ISO 500, 1/25th, f.18.0.



HONORABLE MENTION

Sean M. Wender

Richmond

An eastern fence lizard is discovered basking on an old shed in Sussex County.

Canon PowerShot SD600 digital camera, ISO not recorded, 1/80th, f.2.8.

"I'd kiss a frog even if there was no promise of a Prince Charming popping out of it. I love frogs."

Cameron Diaz

HONORABLE MENTION

Randy Streufert

Mason Neck

Green frogs rest in duckweed in a pond near Randy's house in Mason Neck.

Nikon F-5 camera, Nikkor 200mm f.4.0 micro lens, ISO 100 Fuji slide film, 1/60th, f.11.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

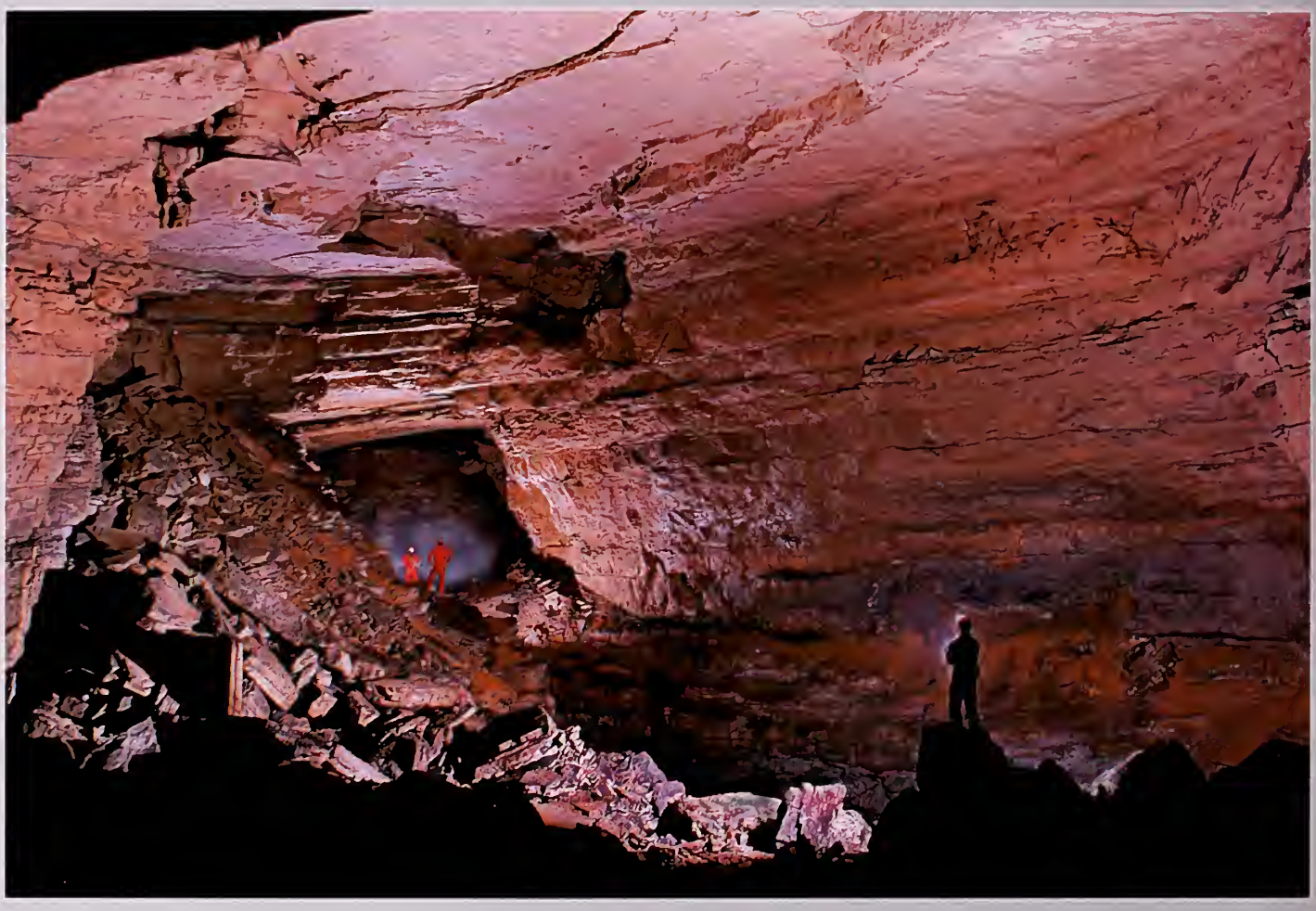
Kelly Cade

West Point

A diamondback terrapin was found trying to lay her eggs in Kelly's garden.

Fuji Finepix S5100 digital camera, ISO 100, 1/150th, f.2.9.

The Sporting Life



FIRST PLACE

Roddy Addington

Pound

This spectacular image of Wildcat Saltpeter Cave located in Big Stone Gap wins first place for Roddy Addington. A 25-year veteran of spelunking (caving), Roddy reports that this photograph was taken with the help of fellow spelunkers who you can see in the photograph. It's hard to imagine, but this underground room is huge: 100 feet wide by 350 feet long, with a ceiling of 70 feet. Incredible!

Nikon D100 digital camera, Nikkor 28mm lens, ISO 200, 35 seconds, f.4.0.

"You don't take a photograph, you make it."

Ansel Adams

SECOND PLACE

Jeff Stower
Fredericksburg

While camping with his 5-year-old son along the upper Rapidan River in the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area near Shenandoah National Park, an American toad hopped over to Jeff and his son's lantern and sat for about 20 minutes, catching bugs attracted to the light. Jeff said that it seemed as if the toad had done this before.

Nikon D300 digital camera, Nikkor 50mm f.1.8 lens, ISO 400, 1/15th, f.2.0 shot with available light.

THIRD PLACE

Eric Rutherford
Abingdon

A misty Washington County morning with some friends offers a chance to hunt the early goose season.

Nikon D300 digital camera, Nikkor 16-85mm f.3.5-5.6 VR lens, ISO 200, 1/160th, f.3.5.

HONORABLE MENTION

Robert Forsyth
Richmond

Cast netting on the James River below Richmond.

Nikon F-3 SLR film camera, Nikkor 180mm lens, Fuji Velvia ISO 100 slide film, 1/500th, f.3.5.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

William Shakespeare

HONORABLE MENTION

Roddy Addington
Pound

Boating at the John Flanagan Dam in Haysi.

Nikon D100 digital camera, Nikkor 70mm lens, ISO not recorded, 1/250th, f.11.0.

Marvelous Mammals

FIRST PLACE

David G. Tuttle

Hampton

In the fading light of the day, white-tailed bucks duke it out near the horse ties across the street from the wayside restaurant at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park. Dave captures first place with this intense moment between two beautiful animals battling for the rights to a nearby doe. Awesome!

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 400mm f.5.6 lens, ISO 400, 1/400th, f.6.3.

"Nature is so powerful, so strong. Capturing its essence is not easy — your work becomes a dance with light and the weather. It takes you to a place with an [illegible] self."

Annie Leibovitz

SECOND PLACE

Jan Shook

Oak Hill

Holding a spotlight in one hand and her camera in the other, Jan dodged falling apples to capture this photograph of an opossum, the first one she'd ever seen. Jan photographed this great shot at her sister's farm in Ivor.

Nikon D300 digital camera, Nikkor 18-200mm f3.5-5.6 lens, ISO 360, 1/60th, f.5.6.

HONORABLE MENTION

Mark Cox

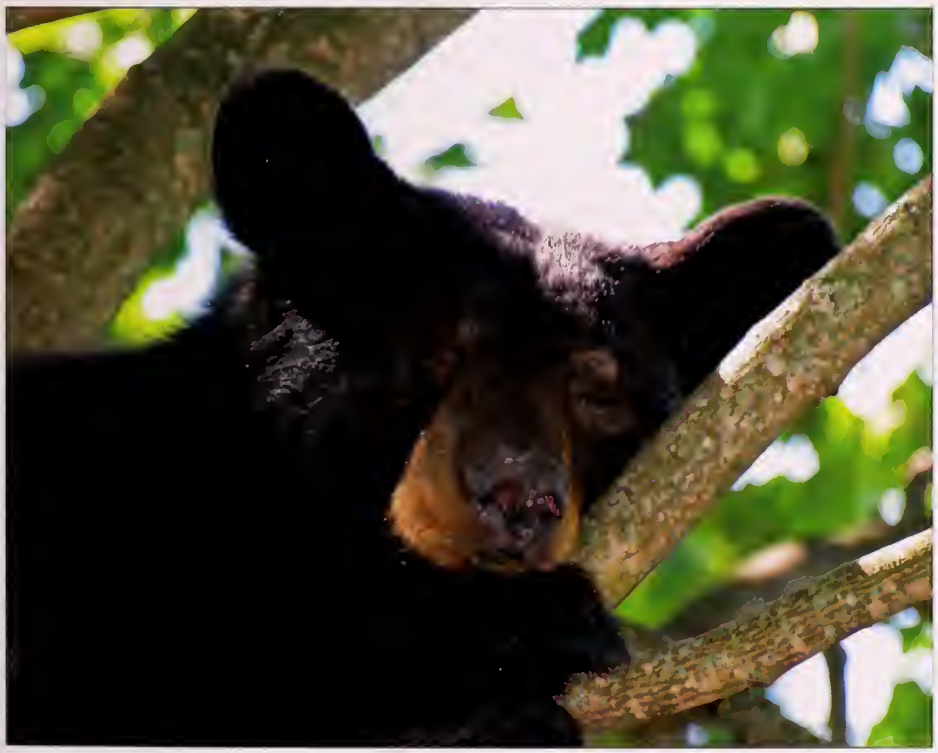
Fort Blackmore

Taken during a spelunking trip to a cavern on Natural Tunnels property, this adorable wood rat (also known as a pack rat) curiously watched Mark from its nest.

Nikon D60 digital camera, Nikkor 55-200mm f4.0-6.0 G lens, ISO 3200, 1/60th, f.5.6, flash.

"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language."

Martin Buber



THIRD PLACE

Rebecca Gregory

Clear Brook

Sitting quietly in the grass helped Rebecca get this photograph of a white-tailed deer fawn at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park.

Canon EOS 40D digital camera, Canon 100-400mm f.5.6 lens, ISO 400, 1/200th, f.5.6.

HONORABLE MENTION

Ruth Dellinger

Woodstock

This black bear decided to sleep in a tree close to the road near Ruth's house. Ruth says that he seemed perfectly comfortable sleeping there as folks drove by and stopped for a look and took pictures.

Olympus E500 digital camera, 70-300mm f.4.0-5.6 lens, ISO 400, 1/160th, f.5.4.

A Bug's Life

FIRST PLACE

Lori Atwater

Blacksburg

Lori captures first place with this gorgeous photograph of an Io moth on daylilies in her front yard in Blacksburg. Good spotting!

Canon PowerShot A700 digital camera, ISO not recorded, 1/250th, f.4.0.

SECOND PLACE

Lori Atwater
Blacksburg

Grasshopper found at the Roanoke Street Community Garden in Blacksburg.

Canon PowerShot A700 digital camera, set on auto/macro.

THIRD PLACE

Chris Wirth
Powhatan

Small black ants attempt to haul away a much larger ant dying in Chris' backyard in Powhatan.

Canon EOS 30D digital camera, Canon MP-E65mm f2.8 1-5x macro lens, ISO 250, 1/250th, f.16.0, Canon MT-24EX Macro Twin Lite Flash with custom made diffuser.

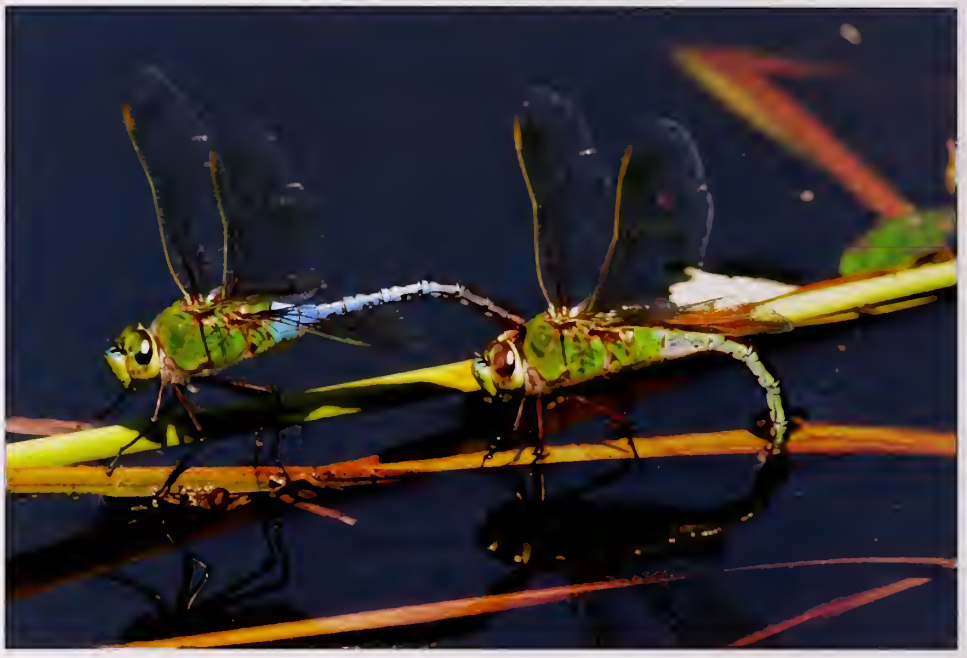
HONORABLE MENTION

Tony Coomer

Dumfries

Common green darners locked in a pre-nuptial hold were photographed at Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 400mm f.5.6 lens, ISO 400, 1/400th, f.7.1.



"The artist's world is limitless. It can be found anywhere, far from where he lives or a few feet away. It is always on his doorstep."

Paul Strand

HONORABLE MENTION

Keith Somers

Louisville, KY

A curious praying mantis perches on the outside of a window.

Olympus E-510 digital camera, ISO 100, 1/80th, f.5.6, with flash.

Birds of a Feather

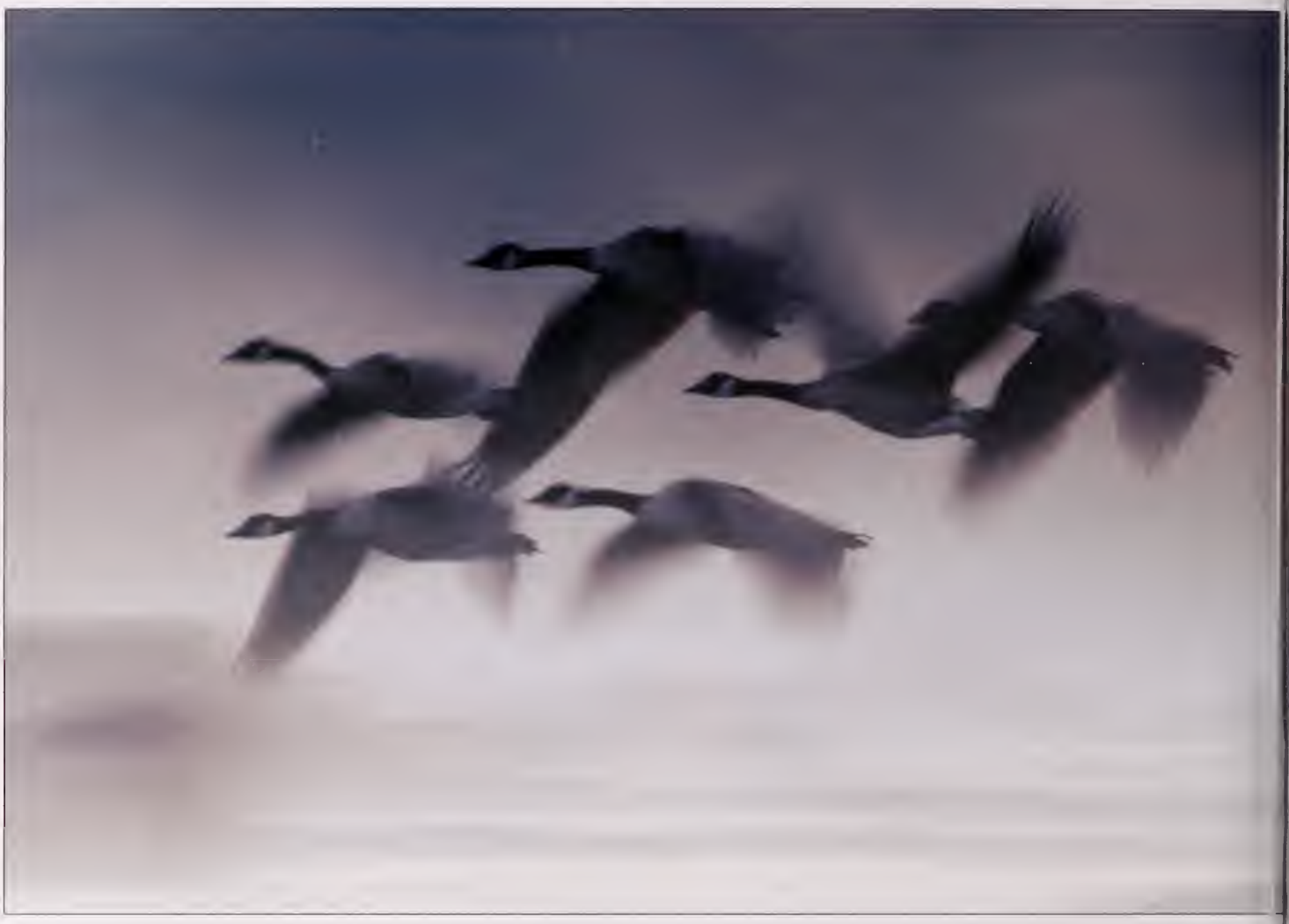
FIRST PLACE

David Dickerson

Bumpass

First place goes to Dave Dickerson for his spectacularly sharp photograph of a male osprey with what appears to be an Atlantic needlefish. Dave photographed this awesome moment at Kiptopeke State Park on the Eastern Shore. What a killer shot!

Nikon D300 digital camera, Nikkor 400mm f2.8 AFS lens with 1.7x teleconverter, (950mm), ISO 200, 1/1250th, f.6.3.



SECOND PLACE

Jeffery Ruisi
Richmond

Canada geese fly through the fog above the James River at Pony Pasture Park in Richmond.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 100-400mm IS lens, ISO 100, 1/30th, f.8.0.

"If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected."

Chief Seattle

HONORABLE MENTION

Kevin Shank,
Dayton

A very rare sight in Virginia, this male painted bunting made appearances to a bird feeder in Verona during 2007 and 2008. Over 300 birders visited the bird during its December to April stay and Kevin was lucky enough to capture the unusual southern visitor in an icy environment.

Canon EOS 40D digital camera, Canon 400mm lens, 1.4x teleconverter, ISO 500, 1/1600th, f.4.5.

THIRD PLACE

Joe Mikus

Winchester

Joe found this eastern screech owl resting in a tree in Frederick County. When processing the digital file, Joe decided to create a black and white image to bring out the beautiful textures.

Nikon D200 digital camera, Nikkor 200-400mm lens, ISO 400, 1/125th, f.4.0, with flash.

HONORABLE MENTION

Joe Mikus

Winchester

A pileated woodpecker family at Sky Meadows State Park was photographed using a remote set-up 30 feet up in a tree and 15 feet from the nest. The camera was triggered with a shutter release from the ground.

Nikon D3 digital camera, Nikkor 70-200mm f.2.8 lens, ISO 1100, 1/250th, f.6.3.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lynda Blair

New Kent

Great egrets argue over a perch at Crewe's Channel off of Willis Road in Richmond.

Canon EOS Mark III digital camera, Canon 400mm lens, 1.4x teleconverter, ISO 200, 1/1000th, f.5.6.

HONORABLE MENTION

David Tuttle

Hampton

A female northern harrier looking for prey, Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 400mm f5.6 lens, ISO 400, 1/2000th, f.8.0.

Fantastic Flowers

FIRST PLACE

Jeff Howell

Fairfax

This gorgeous Deptford pink wins first place for Jeff Howell. Jeff reports that this photograph was taken early one morning near Lake Pelham in Culpeper. Beautiful!

Nikon D300 digital camera, Nikkor 105mm f.2.8 micro lens, ISO 100, 1/200th, f.6.3.

"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."

Rachel Carson

SECOND PLACE

David Dickerson

Bumpass

Fern fronds were photographed on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Montebello.

Nikon D300 digital camera, Nikkor 200mm f4.0 micro lens, ISO 200, 1/8th, f.9.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Rachel Echols

Chester

Allium, (wild garlic) photographed at Shirley Plantation in Charles City County.

Nikon D80 digital camera, Nikkor 80-400mm f4.5-5.6 VR, ISO 500, 1/640th, f.8.0.

"The poetry of the earth is never dead."

John Keats

THIRD PLACE

Margriet Grant

Warrenton

An oak acorn rests on a wooden bench at C. M. Crockett Park in Warrenton.

Nikon D80 digital camera, Nikkor 18-200mm IF ED, f.3.5-5.6 lens, ISO 100, 1/8th, f.5.6.

HONORABLE MENTION

Phillip Southard

Orange

This mushroom *(Pholiota sp.)* was photographed in Orange.

Sony A300 digital camera, Sony 18-70mm lens, ISO 100, 1/40th, f.10.0.

Kids & Cameras 6-12

FIRST PLACE

Nancy Martin, age 9

Glen Allen

Nancy entered her first *Virginia Wildlife* photography competition at age 6, and won a second place. She has entered each year since then and has won something every time, except for first place. Now at age 9, Nancy captures her dream with this wonderful photograph of an American robin fledgling that she found on her swing set in her backyard. Way to go, Nancy!

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 lens, ISO 200, 1/50th, f.6.3.

"There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million."

Walt Streightiff

SECOND PLACE

Marissa Cowart, age 9

Evington

Marissa says she found these colorful mushrooms in her backyard, and as she photographed them she thought they looked like a big city. Cool; I think so too!

Panasonic DMC-LS70, ISO 125, 1/125th, f.2.8.

THIRD PLACE

Christopher Ryan Webster, age 12

Madison Heights

Christopher spotted this katydid resting on a canna lily in his front yard one night. He really loves the contrasting green of the insect against the pink of the flower.

Kodak Easy Share digital camera, 38-380 (equivalent) AF 10x optical zoom lens on the night mode setting.

HONORABLE MENTION

Israel Gallagher, age 10

Winchester

This red-shouldered hawk was photographed along a road in Boyce.

Canon PowerShot SX100 IS digital camera, 6.60.0mm lens, automatic settings.

Kids & Cameras 13-18

"Though snails are exceedingly slow,
There is one thing I'd like to know.
If I put rain 'em round the yard,
How come they lead me to the chard?"

Allen Klein

FIRST PLACE

Kayla Strong, age 17

Richmond

After several years of honorable mentions in this competition, Kayla finally wins first place with a favorite subject, the "lowly" garden snail. Kayla photographed this critter in Scott County. Congratulations, Kayla!

Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT, Canon 100mm EF f2.8 macro lens, ISO 800, 1/15th, f.5.6.

SECOND PLACE

Dillon Rapalee, age 15

Goochland

Dillon reports that on the morning of the Youth Turkey Hunt Day in May of 2007, it had snowed and was so beautiful outside that he wanted to take some pictures. He didn't get his turkey that day but did end up with some gorgeous shots, like this snow-covered red bud.

Nikon Coolpix P4 digital camera , ISO 50, 1/420th, f.5.3.

"The virtue of the camera is not the power it has to transform the photographer into an artist, but the impulse it gives him to keep on looking."

Brooks Anderson

THIRD PLACE

Rebecca Coordes, age 15

Willis

A praying mantis in the garden.

FinePix S5700 digital camera, ISO 200, 1/100th, f.3.5.

HONORABLE MENTION

Michael David Kyle, age 17

Cedar Bluff

A white-tailed deer fawn is discovered while trout fishing in Bland County.

Kodak Easy Share 433 digital camera, ISO 80, 1/90th, f.4.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dillon Rapalee, age 15

Goochland

This captures one spring day before the rain, behind the Highland Historical Society museum in McDowell.

Nikon Coolpix P4 digital camera, ISO 50, 1/90th, f.3.1.

Back Cover: GRAND PRIZE FOR KIDS

Marlin Shank, age 13

Dayton

This year's winner of the Kid's Grand Prize Back Cover is Marlin Shank, age 13, of Dayton for his technically challenging photograph of a barn owl leaving a barn in Rockingham County. Using two, slave driven Nikon SB 800 flashes set up on either side of the window where the owl comes and goes, and a Phototrap electric eye positioned near the window, Marlin was able to photograph the owl as it flew in and out of the window. The owl triggered the Phototrap device as it flew by, and that caused the camera to fire. As the camera fired, its flash set off the Nikon flashes. Are you following me on this? Cool, eh? Hey, wait a second, I think the owl took his own picture!

Fabulous job Marlin! All that hard work paid off, because look at this wonderful image gracing the back cover of *Virginia Wildlife*!

Canon EOS 40D digital camera, ISO 400, 1/250th. f.6.3.

2009 *Virginia Wildlife* Photography Contest

It's time to enter your best photographs and let *Virginia Wildlife* magazine showcase your images for thousands to see. Special prizes will be donated by Eastman Kodak, Richmond Camera and *Virginia Wildlife* and will be given to contest winners. And, two very talented contest winners will have their photographs featured on the cover (adult) and back cover (kid) as the Grand Prize. Winning entries will also be posted online, on our Web site.

Categories

1. *Birds of a Feather*
2. *Cold and Clammy Critters*
   Reptiles, fish, and amphibians.
3. *A Bug's Life*
   Insects (which include butterflies), spiders, or other creepy-crawlies.
4. *Fantastic Plants*
   Flowers, trees, grasses and shrubs that are native to Virginia. **No** cultivated plants are accepted.
5. *Marvelous Mammals*
6. *Scenic Seasons*
   Highlight the four seasons.
7. *The Sporting Life*
   Feature hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, camping, and wildlife watching. Please make sure that all activities are done in a SAFE manner (i.e., lifejackets, blaze orange, sight and hearing protection).
8. *Kids and Cameras*
   Two age groups: 6–12 and 13–18.
   Enter any of the above categories.

How to Enter:

1. The contest is open to any photographer, amateur or professional, except employees of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Contest-related usage rights must be available to *Virginia Wildlife*.

2. Each photographer may enter up to three (3) digital images per category. **Submissions will not be returned.**

3. All images submitted must have **been taken in Virginia** within the past five (5) years. **Do not enter photographs of animals or plants that are not native to Virginia.**

4. All contest entries must be listed on a piece of paper or "Delivery Memo" with your name, address, and phone number. Each entry must be individually listed on this paper stating the category in which it is entered and any details on how and where the image was taken. If possible, please indicate camera type, make, model, lens, film, and settings used.

5. **Digital images:** Set your camera at the highest resolution and send us the original JPEG, TIFF or RAW file. One CD or DVD per category. Label each disk with your name, category, and phone number. No digital prints required. **Submissions will not be returned.**

   Digital images that are grainy or show pixilation cannot be accepted for judging. Do not submit images which have been digitally manipulated. Manipulation of exposure, cropping, and some color correction is acceptable. It is not acceptable to remove or add features to an image.

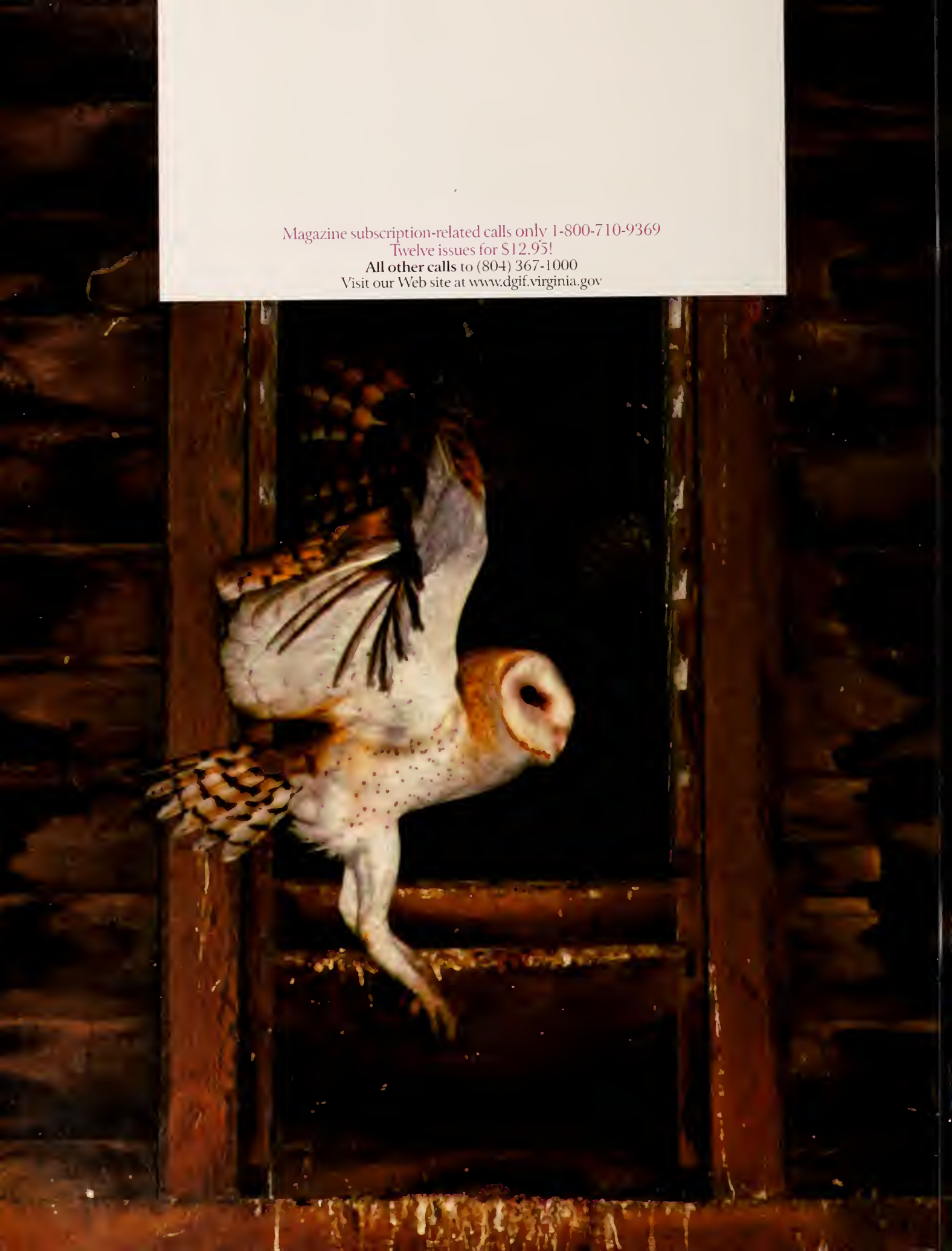
6. We prefer that all photographs taken be of wild animals or plants in the wild but will accept photographs of animals or plants taken under "controlled conditions" or in captive situations. Shots of animals or plants in the wild are given preference over captive shots. Wild animals should not be captured for the sole purpose of photographs for this contest. If you do photograph captive or "controlled" animals this MUST be stated in the Delivery Memo.

7. **Submissions must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. November 2, 2009.** Winning entries will appear in the March 2010 issue of this magazine.

8. Mail your contest entries to: 2009 Annual Photography Contest, c/o *Virginia Wildlife* Magazine, 4010 W. Broad St., P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. The courier address is: 2009 Annual Photography Contest c/o *Virginia Wildlife* Magazine, 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230. It is recommended that you send your submission by certified, registered mail, or by a courier who uses a tracking number to locate lost packages.

9. *Virginia Wildlife* staff members and well-known wildlife/environmental photographer Lynda Richardson will judge all entries. Contest judges will not be responsible for lost mail.

The Virginia Wildlife *Annual Photography Contest is offered as a way to bring greater appreciation to Virginia's wildlife and natural resources.*

Entries for the
2009 *Virginia Wildlife* Annual Photography Contest
must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m.
November 2, 2009.

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